THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) The aim of the District Mental Health Programme launched in 1996-97 under the National Mental Health Programme, is to identify persons suffering from various mental disorders and epilepsy and manage them at the primary health care centres and district level by trained doctors and with the active support of the families and the community in which the patient lives. Thus, the Programme is basically focused to rural areas. The District Mental Health Programme is presently being implemented in 25 districts covering 20 States and Union Territories in the country. In addition, four districts, one each in Tripura and Sikkim and two in Gujarat have been added during 2001-02.

It is envisaged to extend the District Mental Health Programme to cover 100 districts, and to upgrade the facilities in 37 mental hospitals in the public sector and psychiatric wings of 75 medical colleges and general hospitals, during the Tenth Five Year Plan Period.

Financial outlay for the National Mental Health Programme during the Tenth Five Year Plan Period is yet to be earmarked. Therefore, State-wise allocation cannot be indicated at present.

Alcohol-Related Health Problems

*207. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the alcohol abuse is a serious health problem in Karnataka State; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to combat the alcohol-related problems?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) According to analysis done by the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, of the National Sample Survey Data (52nd Round conducted in 1995) the prevalence of alcohol consumption in rural and urban areas of Karnataka is slightly above the national average. In rural areas, the lowest prevalence of alcohol consumption is 0.4% in Lakshadweep and 1.7% in Haryana and the highest is 46.2% in Arunachal Pradesh. In urban areas the lowest

prevalence of alcohol consumption is 1.1% in Gujarat and Tripura and highest of 21% in Arunachal Pradesh and Daman and Diu.

It has been informed by the Government of Karnataka that a Task Force on Health and Family Welfare was set up. This Task Force has submitted its final report which recognizes that alcohol-related problems constitute "a serious public health problem and a socioeconomic issue" in the State. This. Report has made recommendations which cover both issues related to supply reduction and more importantly reduction of demand and harm. It has also been informed that the State Government has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary to go into the recommendations made by the Task Force.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is in the process of developing a National Alcohol and Drug Demand Reduction Strategy in consultation with all stake holders, experts and international agencies in this sector. It is also implementing an NGO-based programme under the Scheme for "Prevention of alcoholism and substance abuse" for preventive education, awareness generation, motivational counselling and rehabilitation of addicts.

Registration of Indian Shipping Companies Abroad

*208. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a trend bodes ill for Indian Shipping Companies have started registering their flagships in offshore registries like Liberia, Panama, Singapore etc. as they feel that operating conditions in India are unfriendly;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian controls and heavy taxes are said to be some of the reasons for this as a result of which 13 per cent of the Indian Shipping has already been registered abroad; and

(c) if so, Government's views on this?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI VEDPRAKASH GOYAL): (a) and (b) No Sir,

(c) Does not arise.